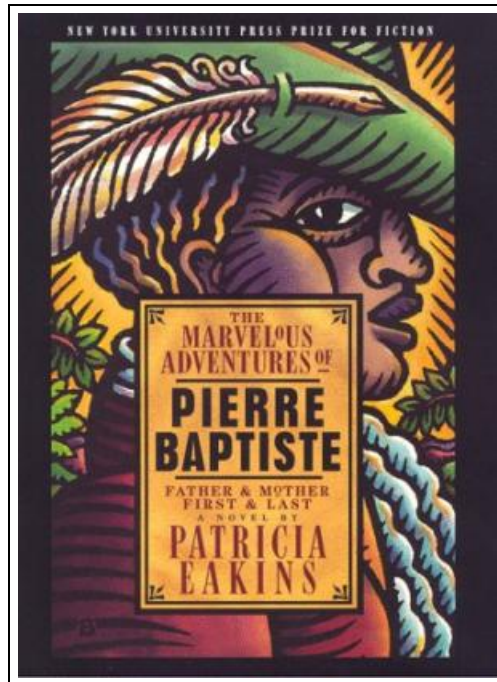


The Marvelous Adventures of Pierre Baptiste: Father and Mother First and Last



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Reviews

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(Taylor Medhurst)

THE MARVELOUS ADVENTURES OF PIERRE BAPTISTE: FATHER AND MOTHER FIRST AND LAST

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New York University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Marvelous Adventures of Pierre Baptiste: Father and Mother First and Last, Patricia Eakins, The first-person narrative of a savant slave, Patricia Eakins' "The Marvelous Adventures of Pierre Baptiste" is one of the most imaginative novels in many years. From the opening pages, the reader is swept up by the linguistic fireworks of Eakins' autodidactic protagonist as he recounts "the tribulations of bondage in the sugar isles," his escape and how he was marooned, and his subsequent trials and adventures. Making expert use of historical convention and with an ear for rhetorical authenticity, Eakins has given us a compelling novel that bridges not only human cultures but the chasm between human and animal. Here then is the account of the life and times of an African man of letters "whose ambitions were realized in strange and unexpected ways, yet who made peace with several gods and established a realm of equality & freedom & bounty in which no creature lives from another's labor." Pierre Baptiste emerges as an embodiment of all that is lost in a racist culture. It is edited by Patricia Eakins. Reading Group Study Questions 1. What do you make of the fact that a twentieth-century European-American female is writing in the person of an eighteenth-century African-American male? What implications are there for prose style and character creation? Pierre considers himself a "philosopher," a "savant." He dreams of communing in France with the eminent natural historian, Buffon. Despite Pierre's creation of a "cyclopedic histoire" of New- and Old-World African lore, can an argument be made that Pierre's adoption of Enlightenment values is a betrayal of his fellow slaves? What does Pierre Baptiste's narrative seem to be saying about erotic love and conjugal relationships? The idea of the...

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